

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BAR-BENCH-MEDIA CONFERENCE

A meeting of the Bar-Bench-Media Conference was held on Thursday, February 20, 1997 in the Supreme Court Conference Room in Wilmington. The meeting was open to the public. Notice of the meeting had been posted. The members of the Conference in attendance were:

Members from the Print News Media

Rita Farrell
John Sweeney

Members from the Electronic Media

Allen Loudell
William D. Osborne
Michael Sigman

Members from the Bench

Vice Chancellor Jack B. Jacobs
Judge Ronald E. Cheeseman
Judge Jay Paul James
Judge John K. Welch
Judge Roderick R. McKelvie

Members from the Bar

Eugene H. Bayard, Esquire
Howard Handelman, Esquire

Judge McKelvie called the meeting to order.

Approval of the Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were corrected to show the proper spelling of Andy Johnson Laird's name.

Attendance: The committee discussed adopting different approaches to encourage better attendance at meetings.

Discussion Topic

Mike Sigman led a discussion of issues related to the topic of pre-trial publicity and the tainting of prospective jurors. Guests Edmund Hillis of the Public Defender's Office and Stephen Wood of the Department of Justice provided their perspectives and answered questions from the floor.

Mr. Hillis is working with Patricia Hannigan on an article on pre-trial publicity and the tension between the First Amendment and the right to a fair trial from the viewpoint of the defense, the prosecution, and the courts. It will be published in a forthcoming issue of the *Delaware Law Review*.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Conference is scheduled for September 18, 1997 at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter T. Dalleo

Next meeting scheduled for September 18, 1997